

Small Group Experience

LESSON 2 - “Jesus Is...COUNSELOR”



Watt's Up:

“When I Don’t Know What To Do, I Know God Will See Me Through!”



Power Verse:

“The Lord says, ‘I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.’”

-**Psalm 32:8**

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Props Print Piece (provided; print one set; will work best on cardstock)
- * Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- * Scissors
- * Tape
- * Craft sticks (one per group)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the props and familiarize yourself with the story so you can facilitate and guide discussion. When small group begins, choose 9 volunteers and assign each volunteer one part from the story that coincides with a prop. Allow each volunteer to cut out their prop and tape it to a craft stick. To review the Bible Story, read the provided lesson excerpt. Pause when the story mentions one of the prop pieces and tell the volunteers to act or say what their respective people or object would be doing or saying. Continue on this way until the story is complete.

Say - Here we are in week two of “Jesus Is”. We continue our look at the greatest story, the story of Jesus coming to Earth. I need nine volunteers to help me with the Bible story.

-Choose your volunteers and allow time for the props to be prepared-

Say - Alright, let's get started. I am going to read the story. When I talk about the people or objects you were assigned, you should act out, say, or make facial expressions to match their part in the story. I will pause as needed and we will continue on this way until the story is complete.

-Read the provided lesson excerpt pausing as needed for the volunteers to do their parts-

Say - King Herod was the king of Judea where many of the Jewish people lived. By this time, he was old and very sick. He was not a very good king. Herod did not treat his people fairly. One day, King Herod got a visit from three wise men who had come from a long distance. The wise men arrived in Jerusalem and went straight to the palace of Herod. They asked him, “Where is the new King of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose in the East, and we have come to worship him.”

King Herod was confused. After all, HE was the king of the Jewish people. Who could these wise men be talking about? Herod asked some of his priests and philosophers, and they gave him the answer. The new king these wise men were talking about was the Messiah, the one whom Isaiah prophesied about. They were talking about Jesus! King Herod was angry. He was not excited at all about the possibility of losing his throne to this new baby, Jesus. So, King Herod made a plan to get rid of Jesus.

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Herod told the wise men, “Go to Bethlehem, then come back and tell me where the new king is staying. I want to go worship him also.” The truth is King Herod had NO plans to worship Jesus. Herod was hoping the wise men would come tell him where to find Jesus, so he could send his soldiers to kill this new born King of the Jews. The wise men had a BIG problem! They needed some wisdom. Remember, the prophet Isaiah said that Jesus is a COUNSELOR!

The wise men knew they needed God’s help, and they knew He would help them! So, the wise men left Herod and traveled until they arrived at the home where Jesus was staying in Bethlehem. When they arrived, they presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. Then before they left to return to Herod, God gave the wise men a dream. God told them to return home without telling Herod where Jesus was staying. When Herod didn’t see the wise men return, he was VERY angry. He ordered his soldiers to go to Bethlehem and kill every baby boy that was under two years old.

However, because of the dream God gave the wise men, Jesus was safe and sound away from King Herod and his soldiers. When the wise men needed help, they asked God for wisdom. Even the wise men needed a wise Counselor!

Say - Thank you to all our volunteers for bringing our Bible story to life in such a unique way!

Ask - Why do you think King Herod was intimidated by baby Jesus?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - How do you think the wise men felt as they relied on God for wisdom? Why do you think they made that choice?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - What do you think might have happened if the wise men didn’t seek counsel in making their decision?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Construction paper (preferably yellow; enough for each kid to have at least one)
- * Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- * Blindfolds (several for the group to share)
- * Scissors (for the group to share)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, gather the necessary supplies. Once activity time begins, divide the group into pairs. Before the game begins, have each kid draw and cut out one large star from their construction paper. To play the game, partners should choose one person to be blindfolded. Once blindfolded, the object is to decorate the star using the crayons, markers or colored pencils. To find their star and decorate it with some accuracy the blindfolded person should listen to the counsel of their partner. Allow each kid to take a turn with the activity. This activity will be a fun learning experience and will not have a defined winner.

Say - I am dividing you into pairs and giving each person a sheet of construction paper. Draw and cut out a large star shape.

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-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

Ask - Does anyone remember the last line of our Bible story?

-Allow time for the kids to answer-

Say - Even the wise men needed a wise COUNSELOR. Each of you has a star cut out, and I want you to decorate the star. Easy stuff, right? There is one little part I forgot to mention, you will be blindfolded when you decorate your star! Don't worry! You have a partner who can give you wise counsel as you seek to decorate your masterpiece.

-Allow time for the kids to do the activity-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * STAR Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)
- * Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- * Scissors

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the STAR Print Pieces. Once group sharing begins, give each kid a STAR Print Piece and begin. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their life. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

Say - We just had an activity where you had to decorate a star blindfolded. I know that for some of you the star creation you made isn't everything you hoped it would be.

Ask - How was the experience of trying to decorate while blindfolded?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - I decided to give you another shot at decorating a star! Take some time to decorate your new star, read the verse on the design, and then we will discuss it together.

-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

Ask - The verse says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life...” What does this mean? Why do we need guidance?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Everyday that we live we are faced with choices. Some big choices, some small choices, some not so important choices and some super important choices. Without Jesus guiding our life, we are like a blindfolded person taking a shot at things and hoping for a win, or at least a not so awful outcome. What a miserable way to live!

Ask - The verse also says, “I will advise you and watch over you...” What does this mean? How does that make you feel?

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-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

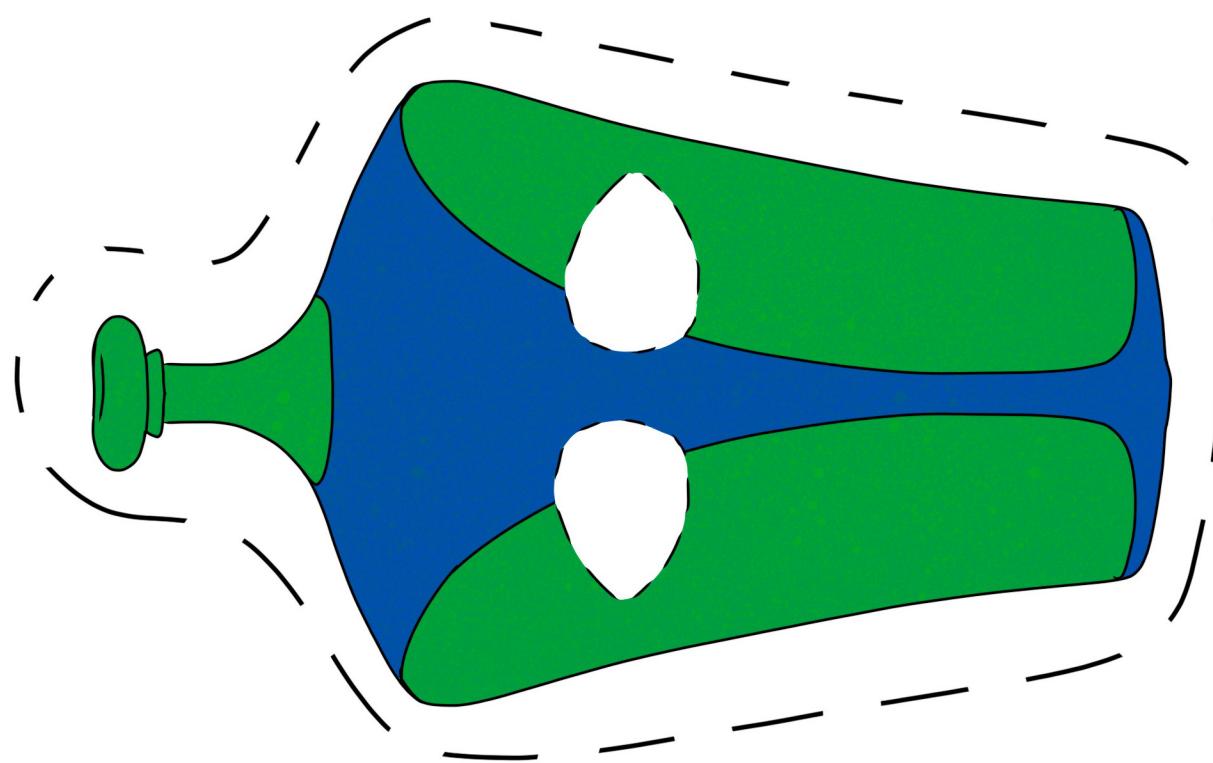
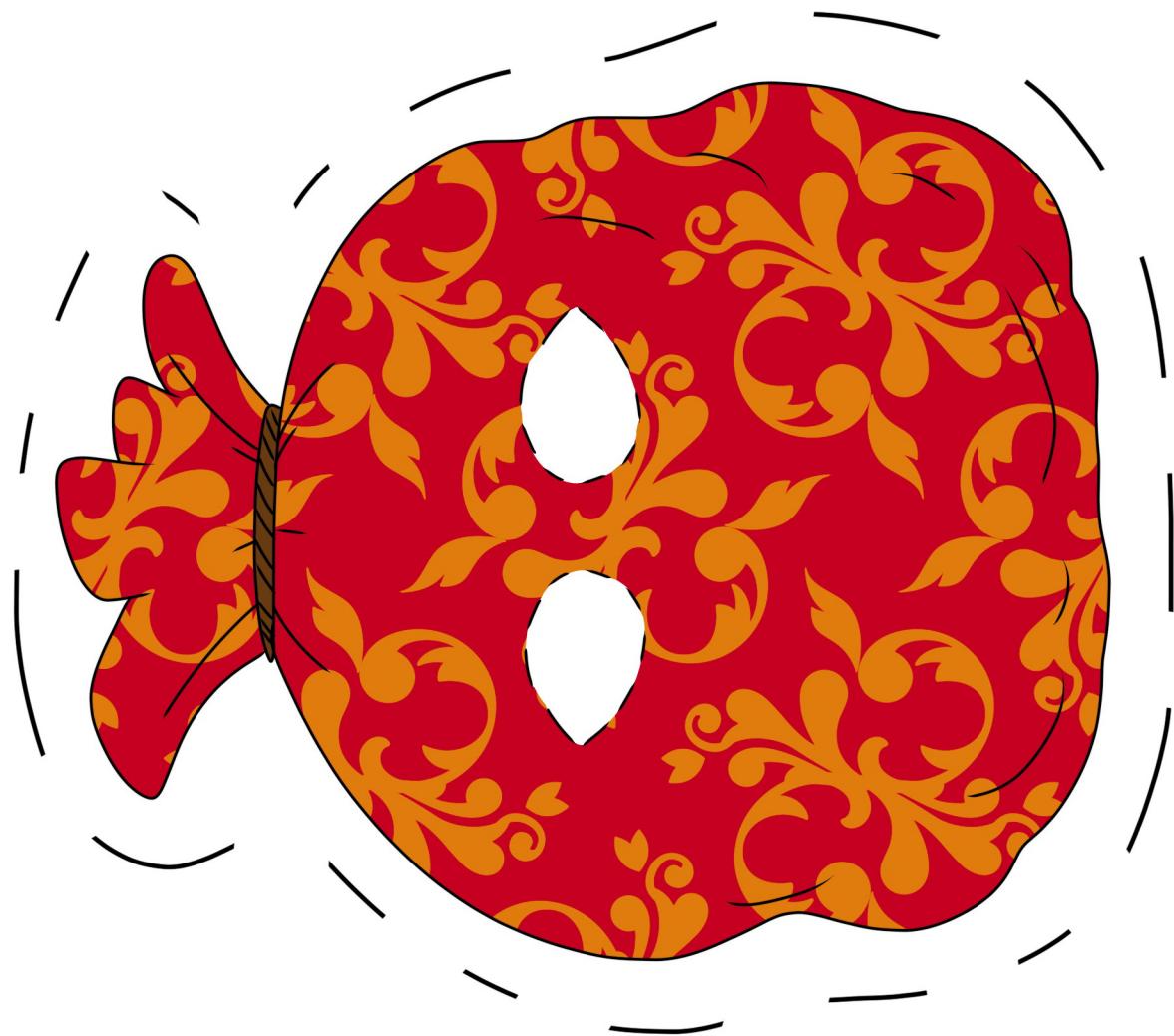
Say - There is a better way to live and make choices. Followers of Jesus were given a gift, a counselor to advise and watch over them as they walk through life. Jesus is the gift that takes off the blindfold and opens our eyes to see the path He has laid out for our life!

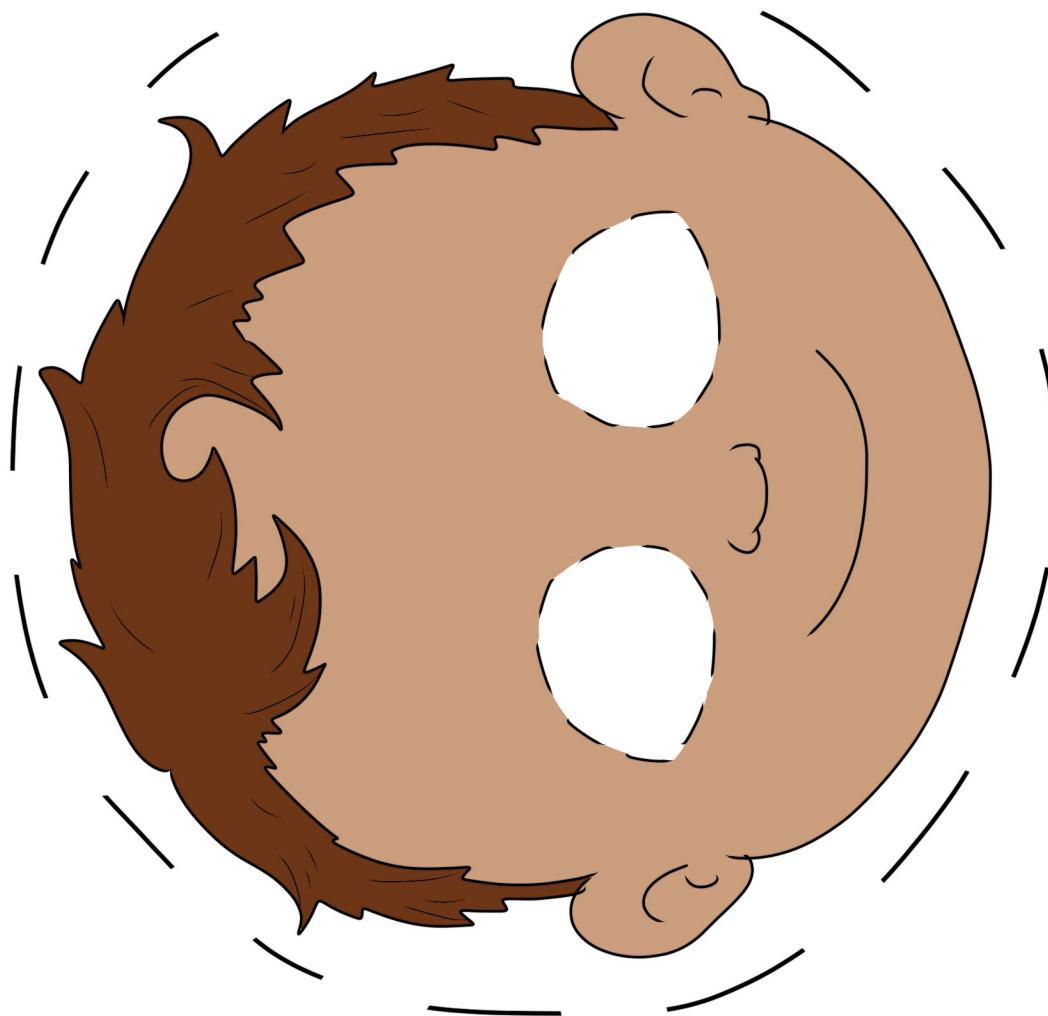
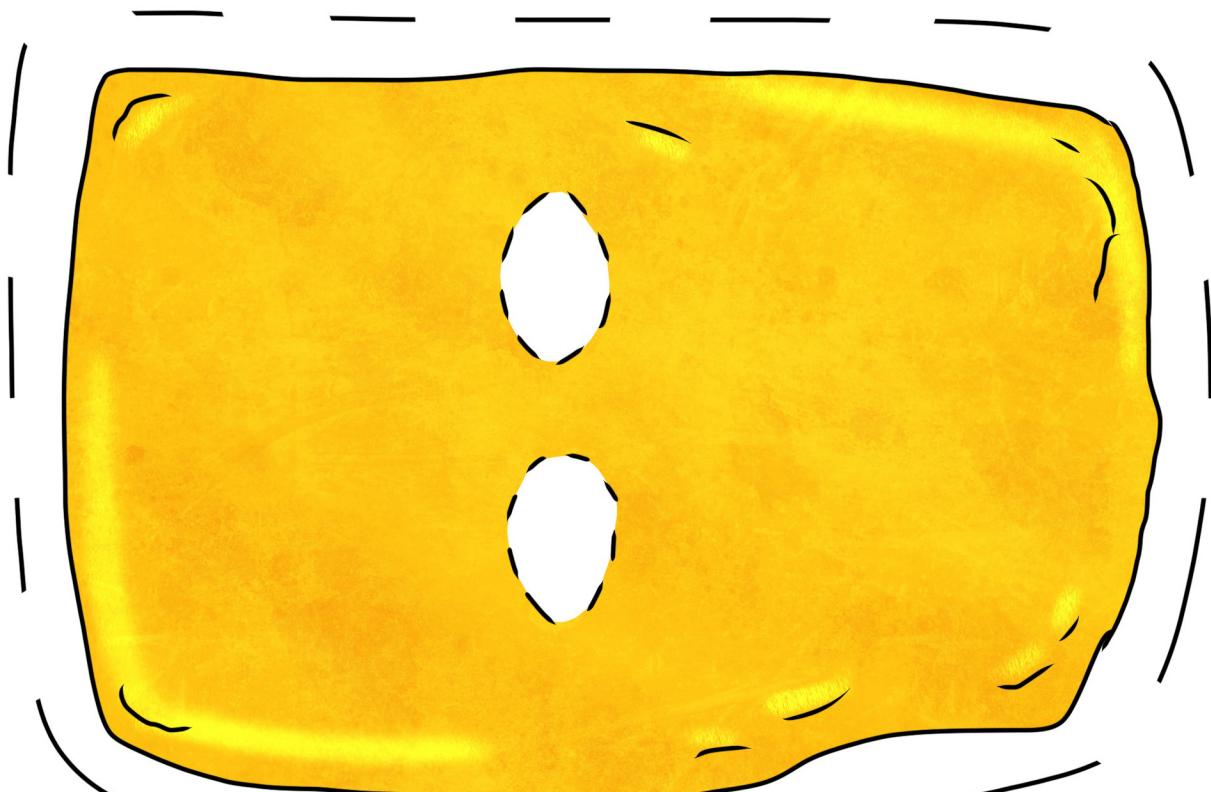
Prayer Time

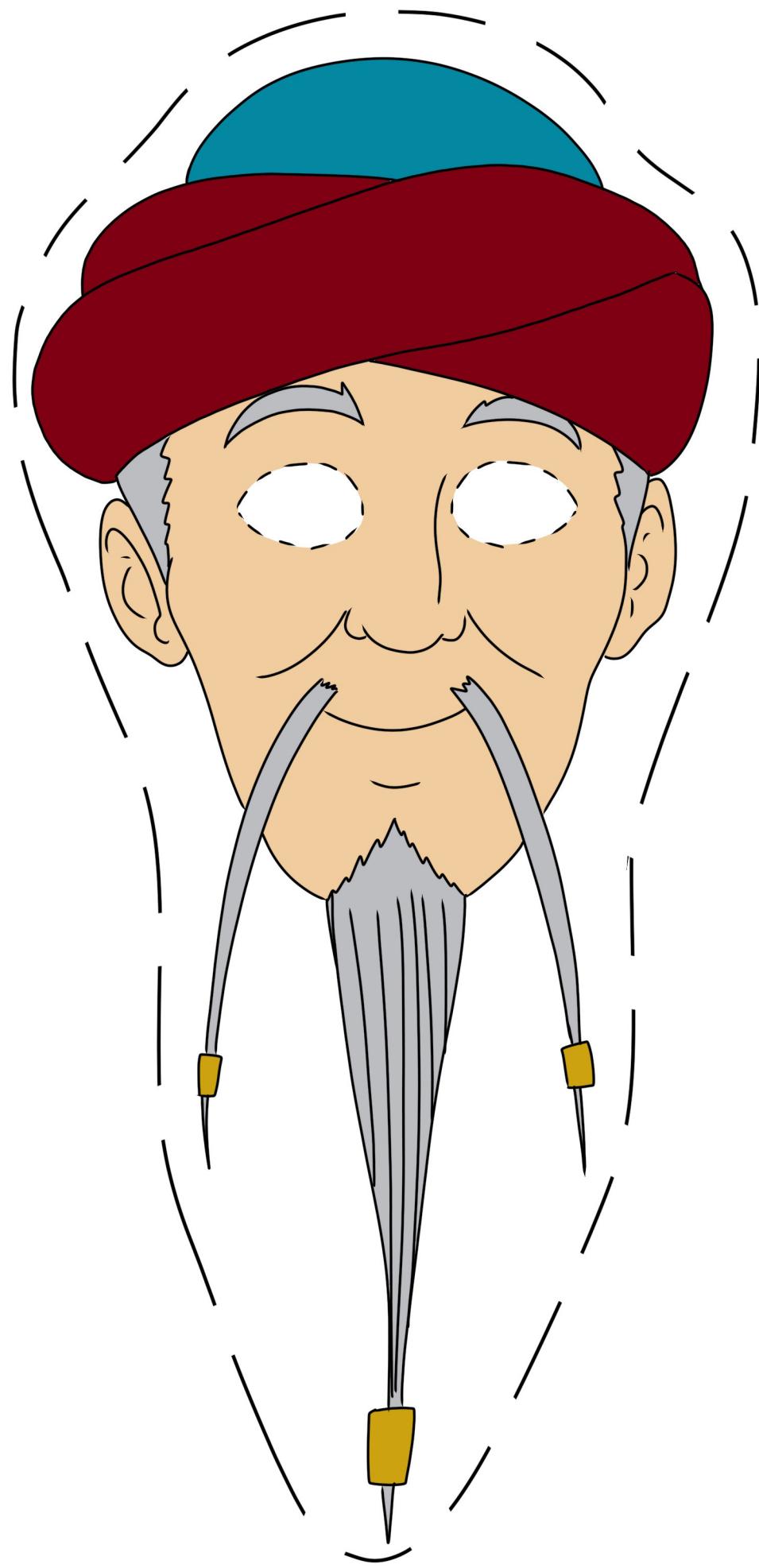
Say - We can trust Jesus to be our counselor. I don't know what choices or situations you might be facing, but I do know you are not alone. Let's pray and ask Jesus to be with us and be our counselor. (PRAY)

Closing

Say - The wise men must have been eager and excited as they followed the star and anticipated their meeting with the new King of Israel. When King Herod heard the news of the baby King, he immediately came up with a plan to manipulate the wise men into making a choice that would have devastating consequences. King Herod did not approach the wise men with his true intentions, his plan was to deceive. His hope was that they would be blind to his desire to end Jesus. However the wise men were not like blindfolded men lost with no direction. They had received counsel from the great counselor. Their eyes were opened and they made the right choice as God guided them along the path he prepared. Our enemy Satan hopes that you and I will choose to do life as blindfolded men and women lost with no direction. The good news is that we have a great counselor, Jesus! He opens our eyes and guides us along the path He has prepared! Jesus is a GREAT COUNSELOR! Thank you for coming today! I will see you again soon!



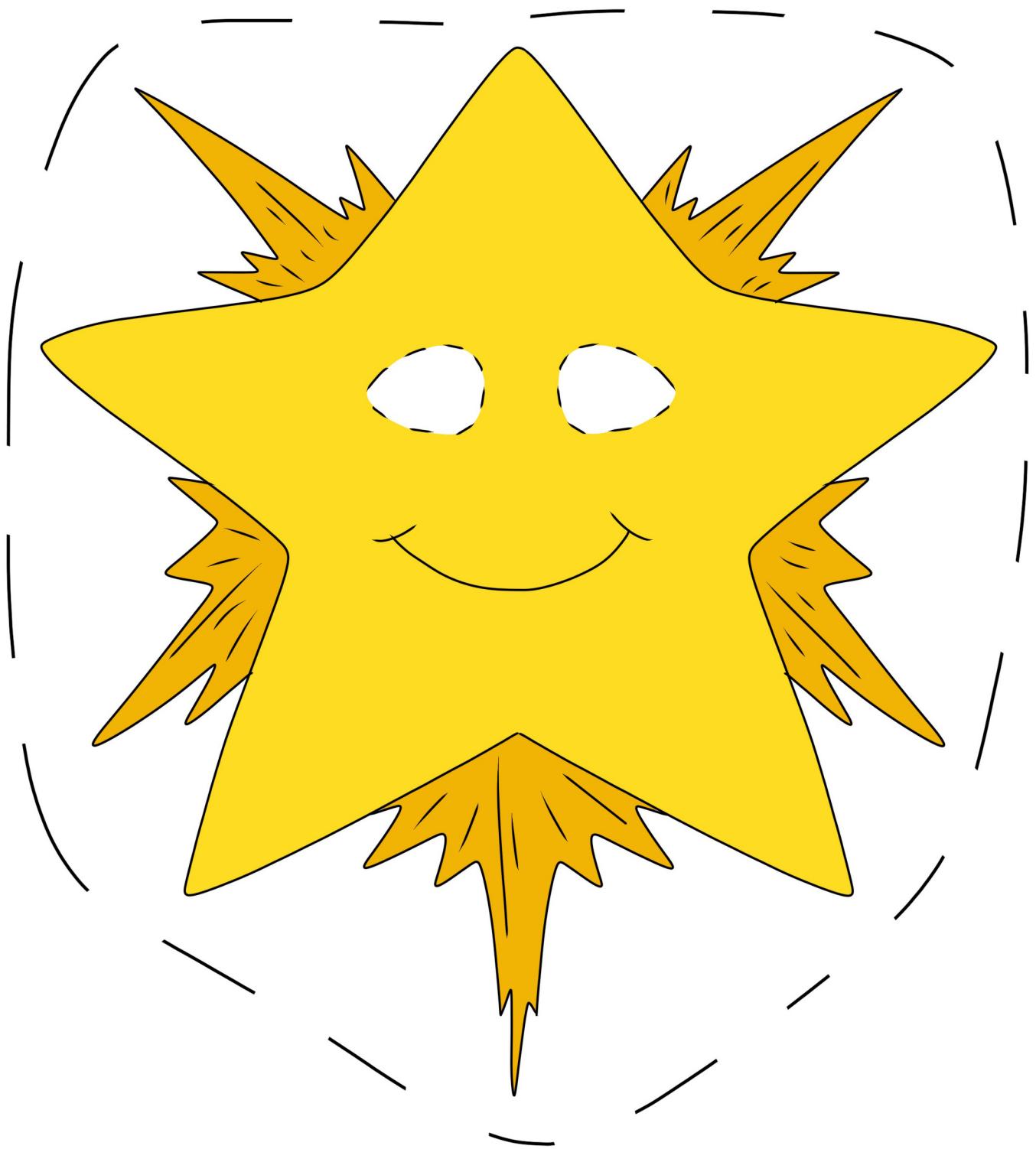


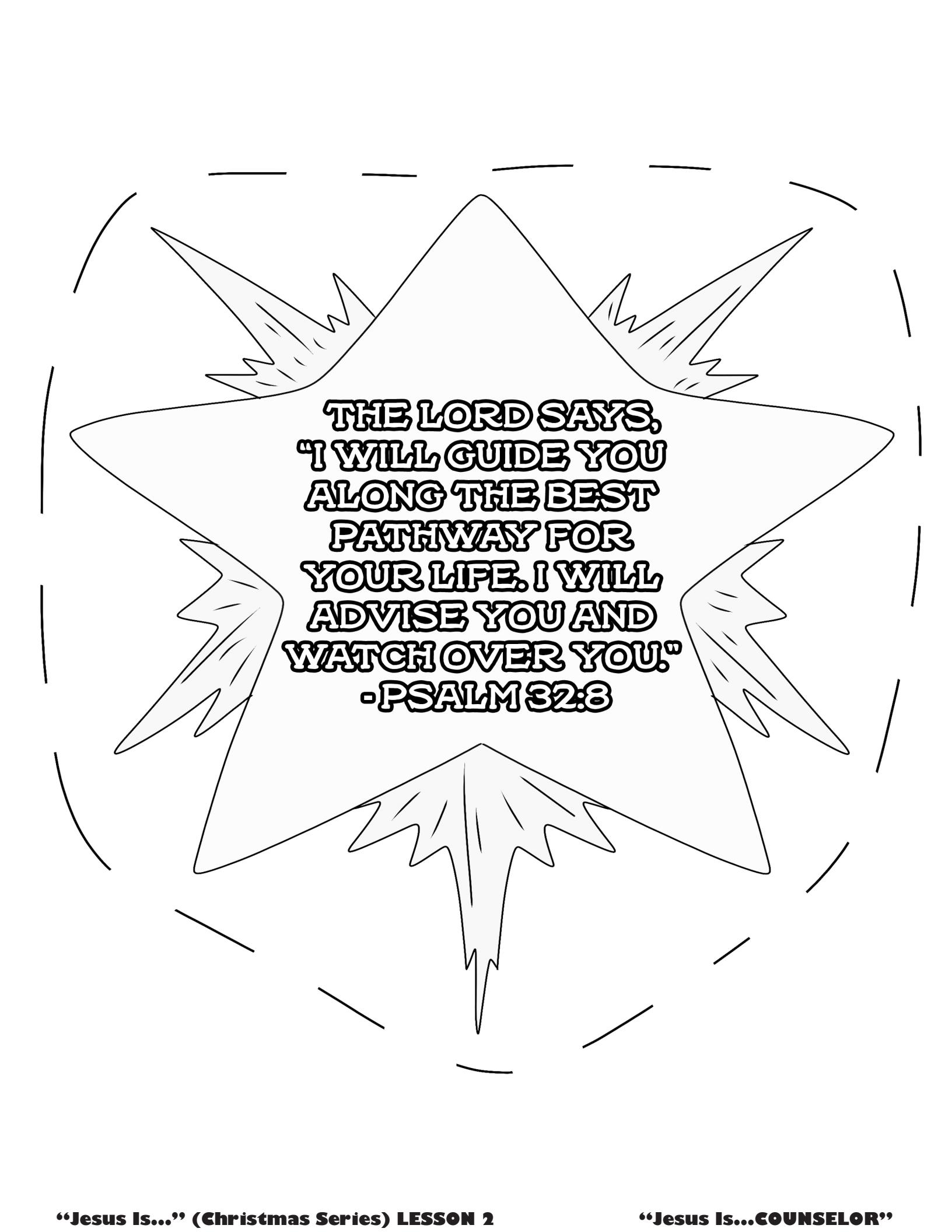












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-PSALM 32:8**